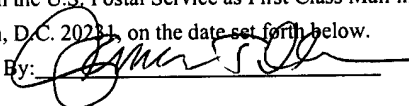




IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| In re the application of: Duff et al.  | Group Art Unit: 1655            |
| Serial No.: 09/037,472   | Examiner: Myers, C.             |
| Filing Date: March 10, 1998  | Attorney Docket No.: MSA-008.01 |
| For: <i>Detecting Genetic Predisposition to Sight-Threatening Diabetic Retinopathy</i> |                                 |

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Certificate of First Class Mailing</b>   |  |
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date set forth below. |  |
| April 11, 2001  | By:  |
| Date of Signature and Mail Deposit  |  |

**PETITION FOR THREE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME**

Sir:

Applicants hereby petition for a three-month extension of time, from January 11, 2001 up to and including April 11, 2001, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) for filing a response to the Office Action dated October 11, 2000 in the above-identified application.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$445.00 for this extension fee. The Commissioner is authorized to charge and underpayments, or credit any overpayments, to our Deposit Account No. 06-1448.

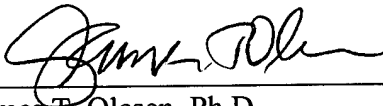
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445.00 OP

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Dated: April 11, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
James T. Olesen, Ph.D.  
Reg. No. 46,967  
Agent for Applicants